IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Paul Birkmeyer et al.

Application No.:

10/708,721

Filed:

March 19, 2004

Entitled:

SPINAL FIXATION ELEMENTS AND

METHODS

Docket No.:

101896-240 (DEP5278)

Certificate of Mailing (37 C.F.R. 1.8(a))

1 hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically filed via EFS-Web to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date set forth below.

October 25, 2006

By

Date of Signature and Mail Deposit

Lisa Adams, Reg. No. 44,238 Attorney for Applicant(s)

Group Art Unit: 3733

Examiner: James L. Swiger III

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

This communication is in response to the Office Action dated October 17, 2006. In the Office Action, the Examiner addresses and rejects claims 1-13. These claims, however, were withdrawn from consideration in Applicant's previous response filed on March 19, 2004. Claims 14-29 are subject to prosecution. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner issue a new Office Action addressing claims 14-29.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 25, 2006

Lisa Adams, Reg. No. 44,238

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Nutter McClennen & Fish LLP World Trade Center West 155 Seaport Boulevard Boston, MA 02210

Tel: (617)439-2550 Fax: (617)310-9550